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Committee on Import Licensing

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION OF REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON
IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES FROM GHANA**

QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GHANA

The following communication, dated 4 March 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

In G/LIC/N/3/GHA/2, Ghana states that it has not been maintaining an import licensing system since it abolished its import licensing system in 1989. In documents G/LIC/N/3/GHA/3 and G/LIC/N/3/GHA/4, Ghana confirms the absence of any import licensing system.

However, according to Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MFA), importers of meat and meat products (poultry) must first apply for an import permit before products are permitted into the country. The application process includes supplying statistical information pertaining to the type, origin, and weight of the product to be imported. Additionally, importers must apply for an interim import permit, and pending the payment of a fee and an inspection from the Director of Veterinary Services, a final import permit must be granted before poultry products may enter Ghana.

1. What is the purpose of requiring permits for the importation of poultry?
2. What is the purpose of the statistical information? Is this in addition to any customs declaration forms that may be also required?
3. What is the period of validity for the import permits?
4. What fees are associated with the import permits?
5. Are there any additional restrictions placed on poultry importers by the Government of Ghana, such as e.g. weight restrictions?
6. Are additional permits from other ministries required for poultry importers?

According to the MFA, *"The approval to import, the issuance of the interim and the final import permits, will depend on the animal health situation in the country of origin of the products."*

1. What is meant by *"animal health situation in the country of origin of the products?"* What process does the Director of Veterinary Services use to determine the health situation in the country of origin? Can Ghana provide, in detail, how health inspections are carried out before the issuance of a final import permit?
 2. When importers are denied a final import permit, are they given the reason that their import permits were denied? Does a process of appeals exist following the denial of the import permit?
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